(d) A Notice has been served on the Recruiting Agent to show cause as to why their Registration Certificate should not be suspended/cancelled. On receipt of the reply, action will be taken under the Emigration Act, 1983.

Based on the findings of a preliminary enquiry that there is a *prima facie* case of irregularity having been committed, a show cause notice was issued to the two officials involved and not finding their reply to be satisfactory, the matter has been referred to vigilance section for initiating disciplinary proceedings.

Defining Poverty Line

*384. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are serious flaws in the methodology adopted by Government in defining poverty line as it makes very little provision for other essentials of life like drinking water, shelter and sanitation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the rate of decline of poverty since 1973 has been at dismal 0.81 per cent per annum and the number of poor stood at about 25 crore in 2004; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to include parameters like drinking water, shelter etc., in the definition of poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The methodology adopted by the Planning Commission, Government of India, in defining the poverty line is as recommended by the Expert Group on "Estimation of Proportion of Number of Poor" (Lakdawala Committee) and is widely acknowledged to be one of the most sophisticated methodologies. Based on this expert group report, the Planning Commission has adopted a Per Capita Consumption Expenditure needed to attain the minumum amount of non-food expenditure in order to meet the requirements of clothing, shelter, transport etc. as the critertion to define the poverty line.

The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and State level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the expert

Group Medhodology. On the basis of this methodology, incidence of proverty was calculated for the years 1973-74, 1977-78, 1983-84, 1987-88, 1993-94 and 1999-2000, when the data from the results of large scale sample suvery by National Sample Survey Organization on Household Consumer Expenditure were available. It is observed from the estimates made by the Planning Commission that the incidence of poverty has declined from 56.4 percent in 1973-74 to 27.1 percent in 1999-2000. The poverty rate defined as the percentage of the poor has declined at a rate of 1.13% points per year between 1973-74 and 1999-2000 and the annual average rate at which the total number of poor people has declined is 0.81 per cent during this period.

The next estimate of poverty by the Planning Commission will be based on the results of 61st round of NSS conducted during 2004-05, which is yet to be published. Therefore, the question of the number of poor during 2004 at about 25 crore, does not arise.

There is no proposal with the Planning Commission to evolve a new definition of poverty line including parameters like drinking water, shelter, etc.

Insofar as the Ministry of Urban Employnment & Poverty Alleviation is concerned, for identification of genuine beneficiaries under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), both economic and non-economic parameters are considered. Based on the State specific urban poverty lines, as estimated by the Planning Commission, the below poverty line (BPL) survery is made by the States/Union Territories. The non-economic parameters, like shelter, water, sanitation, etc., are then applied to this urban below poverty line (BPL) population for identification of genuine beneficiaries under the Scheme.

Relaxing of norms under Delhi Master Plan

*385. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of suggestions received on Delhi Master Plan 2021 and ground reality, Government have re-looked at Floor Area Ratio, dwelling units and height norms for plotted residential housing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;